

SOUTHERN Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

Price 2 Cents A Copy

New Orleans, La., April-May, 1937

Vol 2—No. 3

Louisiana Labor Pledges Support For Farm Union

The 35th annual convention of the Louisiana Federation of Labor, which met at Lake Charles, April 5-7, unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the work of the Louisiana Farmers' Union in organizing the farmers of the state and educating them in the principles of unionism. Mr. J. A. Prillon of the Typographical Union (Baton Rouge) introduced the resolution.

Mr. Gordon McIntire, organizer for the Louisiana Farmers' Union, in a speech to the convention, pointed out that agriculture is Louisiana's largest industry. He stated that the government, through officials such as Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, has repeatedly maintained that the only hope for Southern tenant farmers, whose lot is the worst in the nation, lies in organization.

Stressing the fact that the Louisiana Farmers' Union is a section of the Far-west Educational and Co-operative Union of America, Mr. McIntire said that the union was now conducting a campaign for co-operation between farmers and labor. Farmers will buy union label goods and union workers in the cities will demand union label farm products.

Mr. McIntire stated the convention when he pointed out the demand that mutual support of the union label by farmers and union workers will bring to the entire working population of Louisiana.

How To Get Benefit By Moratorium Act

Since the Supreme Court decision in favor of the Frazier-Lemke Moratorium Act farmers have wanted information on how to use it to advantage. The following methods of applying for its advantages are:

1. When foreclosure proceedings are started, the farmer may file a petition with the clerk of the federal district court, or conciliation commissioner of the county. It is best to hire a good friendly lawyer. Organizations should retain their own lawyer for mutual protection.

2. The petition should contain a schedule of property, and should ask for reduction or extension of debts, or both, if desired. If a majority of the creditors agree to compromise, the farmer proceeds according to the plans drawn up in the petition. If the creditors are unwilling, the farmer may file under the bankruptcy subsection of the act, asking that he be allowed to remain in possession of his property for 3 years.

3. The property is appraised and the farmer proceeds to farm, paying rent as set by the court. The court supervises the farming, and may for cause remove the occupant.

4. At the end of 3 years, or before, the farmer may pay off the appraised debt. However, there is where the hitch comes in. The creditor has the power to demand a reduction of five cents on the dollar. Consequently, the act does not have an adjustment of debt, as provided in the original act, but merely for a breathing spell. The change made after the court's decision of the original act.

Attends Convention



Gordon McIntire

Mr. McIntire spoke at the Louisiana Federation of Labor convention at Lake Charles on the Farmers' Union Label plan.

Dairy Union Has Cheese Factory

KENTWOOD, La.—According to the Kentwood Chapter of the Dairy Farmers' Protective League will establish their own milk market by operating the Landry Cheese Factory at Fluker after a decision by a mass meeting of League members here April 29th. The present capacity of the plant is 1200 gallons per day and the purchase price was announced as about \$5300.

President H. G. Vernon was given authority to handle all milk produced by the Association as he sees fit. He has the power to suspend members for selling surpluses to pasteurizers. "We are going to give them the seventy per cent of winter base they asked for," Mr. Vernon said. "Any dairyman who refuses to abide by the surplus regulation can be suspended, and his pasteurizer instructed not to accept his milk for a certain period. If the company refuses we will boycott the plant."

By Vester Burkett Organizer, District 5 Alabama Farmers' Union

I wish to know if you know who called the first strike? It was God, when he told Moses to go down and bring His children out from under Egyptian bondage. Those people were starving for the Egyptians and God called a strike for them, and sent a man after them.

Listen, Brother Farmers, God wants you to come out from under Wall Street's and Bill Graves' bondage, and you have it to do yourself by organizing. God will do his part if you will do yours.

If the farmers in the state had gone to Montgomery and rebelled against the state, they would not have had to pay it. So we are armed, and let the bank owners run our business. Just as long as we do that, we will be under the Egyptian bondage.

The farmers have the government on the side of their pockets, and if we would show our hands by organ-

Land For The Landless Is Aim Of Boileau Bill Now Before Congress

AAA Admits Violations But Doesn't Stop Them

The Department of Agriculture now admits that Southern planters have violated the cotton control program in all parts of the South and that many tenants have been forced to give up their crops and look for day labor this year. The fact has long been recognized and pointed out by the farm unions of the South.

The official admission of facts would have been well taken by the tenants of the South if any better plan had been developed for the handling of complaints. As it now stands the whole matter of adjustment is still left up to the County Agents and to the County Committees composed of the largest landholders in the county or parish. Until all tenants and sharecroppers have a voice in the nomination and election of the County Committees they will be subject to the same old discrimination against Union members and failure to get justice. The tenant doesn't stand any chance by complaining to the landlord who has cheated him.

The letter of Mr. C. A. Cobb, Director of the Southern Division of the Soil Conservation Program, released by the Department of Agriculture March 8th reads as follows:

"This Division has received, in the last few weeks from the various States, a number of complaints from both share-croppers and standing-tenant tenants. Those complaints are to the effect that the cropping arrangement on the farms on which they operated in 1936 has been changed by their landlords for the year 1937 and they are unable to operate this year as tenants with these landlords, even though they have made satisfactory settlement of their accounts for the year 1936 with such landlords.

"Every year at this season since 1934, a few letters of this nature have been received by this Division. The increased number of such complaints received so far this year

would indicate that there is a tendency on the part of some landlords to change the status of tenants in order to operate their farms in 1937.

(Continued on Page Two)

Union Victory In Reeltown Cases

DADEVILLE, Ala.—On April 6th John Warren was freed and his father, Willie Warren, pleaded guilty in court to defending Cliff James' property at Reeltown in 1932 and received a 2½ to 3 year sentence. Judge Strother said he would not oppose parole for Willie Warren after he had served 4 to 6 months of his sentence. Judge Strother also said he would not oppose parole for the Reeltown prisoners who have been in jail since 1933 on the same charge.

The Reeltown case grew out of a conflict between Cliff James and his landlord, Parker. Parker had a deputy serve a warrant on Cliff James to confiscate his mule for debt. James denied he owed the debt and refused to give up his mule. The deputy cursed him out and said he'd be back with a gang to get it. Later a lynch mob came and the Share Croppers Union members around Reeltown gathered to defend James. A fight followed in which Cliff James and two other union men were killed and several of the mob wounded.

In the arrests and trials that followed six union men were sent to jail. The Share Croppers Union defended the members on the ground of an Alabama Supreme Court decision which gives a person the right to defend his property with the means required by the situation if it is being taken for a debt not proven to be fact or legal by due process of law.

By Federated Press

Washington—Launching a new drive on the problem of farm tenancy, Rep. Gerald Boileau (Prog. Wis.) introduced his Farm Security Bill calling for \$500,000,000 for the purchase by the government of farm lands which are to be resold to tenants on a long term basis.

Boileau put his bill into the congressional hopper despite the pending Jones farm tenancy bill and the President's warning against new expenditures. Boileau's bill is backed by the Farm Holiday Association, the Farmers' Union of Louisiana and several national and state Farmers' Union leaders.

"This bill, in my judgement, can and will serve as the rallying point for a powerful uniting movement among the true working farmers of our country," Gardner Jackson, legislative advisor to the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union declared. The measure was also hailed here by Webster Powell, director of Farm Research.

Boileau's bill was drafted and introduced following the report of the President's commission on farm tenancy which found deplorable conditions on the land and farm tenancy increasing at an alarming rate. Rep. Marvin James (D. Tex.) introduced a bill containing some of the recommendations of the commission which was further emasculated in the House committee.

Chief provisions on the Boileau bill are (1) 500 million dollars for the government purchase of land, (2) administration of the act by locally elected committees of farmers, tenants and sharecroppers, (3) purchase price of the land to be approved by the county committees, (4) no evictions or foreclosures for the 40 years and no one year's payment to exceed one-fourth of the cash value of the crop, (5) interest rates of 1½% and (6) safeguards for the right of all farmers to organize and provisions for written contracts between tenants and landlords.

Alabama A.F.L. To Aid Farm Workers

ANNISTON, Ala.—The annual convention of the Alabama Federation of Labor passed four resolutions supporting the new Farm Laborers and Cotton Field Workers Union. George Googe, Southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, stressed the importance of organizing Alabama's 80,000 workers and said assistance would be given to this work.

One resolution calls for amending the Wagner Labor Disputes Act to include farm labor. Another calls for amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act and other laws which discriminate against farm labor to include them.

One resolution calls upon all local unions and Central Labor Unions affiliated to the A.F.L. to set up organizing committees to aid in organizing farm wage workers and to co-operate with the Farm Laborers & Cotton Field Workers Union. The last resolution urges the immediate establishment of an international union of agricultural, packing, and cannery workers by the A.F.L.

ORGANIZE & CO-OPERATE

izing and unionizing we would get our rights. We need to put our power into action and do less talking.

DRIVE THIEVES OUT

The politician bunch is looking at us, wondering what is going to happen next. The bureaucrats are wondering if the farmers are going to build their gins. Listen, Christ drove the money-changers out of the temple and we can drive the thieves out of our business if we will organize and have the stickability. Don't get discouraged because every person won't join the union. If every person joined the union we wouldn't have any organization because we would have all the Judases, for Christ had them.

The farmers are not getting their part of the national income, which should be about \$4,000 a year. Under present conditions the average is about \$400 a year. How are we to get our part? By organizing, by being our rights and having the stickability. The old Union and the old union the other way was the failure.

Are we doing our part? Are we sitting idle waiting for some one else to do it?

If we all put our shoulders to the wheel and push together the District Organizers would be able to do more. I am thanking the union brothers for their co-operation where I have been.

CO-OPERATIVE GIN

A co-operative gin and warehouse will mean millions of dollars to the farmers. That is why we are organized for self-protection. I would like to see every county in the state have a Farmers' Union Gin and Warehouse. We are making every effort to build one in Walker County and in other parts of the state. We are also going to build some co-operative stores, co-operative markets, co-operative grist and feed mills, and other co-operatives for the Farmers' Union. We already have our Farmers' Co-operative Telephone Workers. For some years of time. I think that is one of the biggest things the Farmers' Union has done.

Ala. Conference Sets Wage Scale Has Big Support

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Farm wage hands, trade unionists, Farmers' Union members, public officials and civic leaders met in Ben Hur Hall in this city April 18th in the first Farm Wage Conference to be held in Alabama. The conference, with more than 100 delegates, was the send-off to organize Alabama's 80,000 farm workers into the Farm Laborers' & Cotton Field Workers Union and with a wage scale and demands suitable for their conditions.

William Riley, husky coal miner and President of the Jasper Central Labor Union, was the conference chairman. M. W. Martin, President of the Farm Laborers & Cotton Field Workers Union, made the opening address. He asked support from other branches of the labor movement, from farmers, from civic leaders and public officials in order to make the organization of the oppressed farm workers a success. He said industrial workers' wages, farm income, markets for industry would all be favorably affected by higher and fairer wages and establishment of democratic rights for farm wage labor.

William Mitch, District President of the United Mine Workers of America, pledged support of Alabama labor to the new union. He told of the miners' 17 year struggle to achieve their powerful organization in Alabama, in spite of those who said it could not be done.

Donald Henderson, Secretary of the National Committee of Agricultural Workers, said there were 90 Federal Unions of agricultural, cannery and packing house workers. The Executive Council of the A.F.L. has agreed to set up a National Council for these Federal Unions, he said, and most likely an International Union will be formed soon.

R. J. Goode, Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture, spoke to the conference on how farm problems affect all groups of the population. He said the welfare of the farming people was in direct proportion to that of labor and industry.

Greetings to the conference came from William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor; W. O. Hare, Sec'y, Alabama Federation of Labor; R. R. Moore, Ala. Commissioner of Labor; Steve Nance, President, Georgia Federation of Labor; Ida Lee Merchant, Sec'y of the Mobile Central Trades Council; Francis Gorman, President, United Textile Workers Union; Sidney Hillman,

ALABAMA FUTURE FARMERS TAKE NOTE OF THE WOLVES



The Future Farmers of America was organized in the vain hope of getting votes for Liberty League Landon who was plowed under by the people last year. Here are those well-known "friends" of the farmer, Pres. Cabell of Armour & Co., Owen D. Young of General Motors, and Wm. Johns of Batten, Burton, Durstine & Osborn, advertising firm.

UNION WAGE SCALE

Adopted at the Wage Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, April 18th by the Farm Laborers & Cotton Field Workers Union.

Chopping Cotton.....\$1.50 per day
General Farm Labor.....\$1.25 per day
Picking Cotton.....\$1.25 per 100 lbs.
Picking Peas.....\$1.25 per 100 lbs.
Wages by month, with meals.....\$20
Wages by month, without meals.....\$28

For further information and organizing material write M. W. Martin, President, Farm Laborers & Cotton Field Workers Union, P. O. Box 481, Birmingham, Ala.

President, Clothing Workers Union; Senator Hugo Black, Alabama; Senator H. T. Bone, Washington; Congressman Gerald Boleau, Wisconsin; Congressman Maury Maverick, Texas; Congressman Byron Scott, California; Gardner Jackson, Chairman, National Committee on Rural Social Planning; H. L. Mitchell, Sec'y Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; Gordon McIntire, Organizer, Louisiana Farmers' Union; Odis Sweeden, President, Oklahoma Tenant Farmers' Union; John P. Davis, Sec'y National Negro Congress; F. P. Essinger, Superintendent, Church Extension Boards, Congregational and Christian Churches.

Farmers Union Sec'y For Court Proposals

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—Badly need farm support for President Roosevelt's plan to liberalize the supreme court came this week from J. M. Graves, national secretary of the Farmers' Union.

"There seems not to be so much objection to a large number of justices," Graves said, "as to who does the appointing."

"If nine justices were required in 1869 or 1870," he continued, "is it reasonable to assume that the same number (perhaps infirm), can not properly perform the duties, which we know have increased many fold, imposed upon them at this time when we know that people become restless at the delay occasioned by lack of sufficient justices to promptly determine the all-important questions now coming before the court."

"We have greatly increased the number of members in our law-making bodies since 1870. The inferior courts have been increased, cabinet officers have been added to the executive committee of the government. Then why should not the supreme court be increased in number and efficiency to take care of additional duties which accrue?" he concluded.

"Practice what you preach!" Purchases of Union Label products speak louder than speeches about them!

AAA Admits Violations

(Continued from page 1)

with wage hands and day laborers. Paragraph g, Section 18 of Southern Region Bulletin 101, provides:

"If the Secretary, upon the basis of an investigation by the State Committee, finds that any person has for 1937 made any change from the 1936 leasing or cropping arrangement for the farm or has adopted any other device for the purpose of, or which would have the effect of, diverting to such person any payment would be tenants or sharecroppers would be entitled if the 1936 leasing or cropping arrangement were in effect for 1937, the amount of any payment which otherwise be made to such person may be withheld in whole or in part."

"It will be in order for you to take the necessary steps to bring to the attention of the landlords and landowners in your State the provision quoted above and to advise the various County Agents and County Committees that they will be expected to follow the foregoing quoted paragraph in each instance where the 1937 workabest shows that there has been a change of status of the tenants on the farm."

"By giving this provision the proper publicity at this time, it will no doubt serve to reduce the number of such cases for the year 1937 in your State."

"Very truly yours,
"C. A. COBB,
"Director, Southern Division."

Landlord Cotton Co-op Exposed By Federationist

By Gordon McIntire

The FEDERATIONIST, Louisiana Federation of Labor paper has scored again in showing the miserable working conditions in the American Cotton Co-operative Association offices in New Orleans. Large and petty graft has been uncovered from top to bottom. Letters from over-worked and underpaid employees have flooded the FEDERATIONIST office.

The ACCA seems to be a perfect example of the co-operative which is not a co-operative. For at the front door we have the president drawing a \$50,000 per year salary and in back poorly paid employees working as high as 120 hours per week and women fainting from sheer exhaustion. Though Louisiana law forbids working women more than 9 hours per day, yet here they often have to work from 8:30 in the morning to 11 o'clock at night. Yet at Christmas time these employees must kick in and buy the boss a present for fear of losing their jobs. That is not what we call co-operation.

"The American Cotton Co-operative Association has violated all of the laws of decency and government before the NRA, during the NRA, and even now at this minute, the employees are working under conditions that make one think the old Slave Market that used to be on St. Louis Street has not been moved to the American Cotton Co-operative Association, on Camp and Gravier Street," says the FEDERATIONIST.

We can only assure these workers that they have our full sympathy and urge that they organize to get justice and secure their rights. The Supreme Court's favorable decision on the Wagner Labor Disputes Act should give them courage. Farmers' Union men will never endorse the ACCA until there is a house cleaning.

Cotton Choppers in California Strike

TULARE, Calif.—Demanding \$1.50 instead of \$1 a day, over 200 cotton choppers and weathers on the J. E. Warren Ranch are solid in a strike that started as a sit-down.

The strikers, mostly Mexicans dropped their tools and sat down in the fields when their demands were refused. Deputies evicted them and they camped on the roads.

Organize, Study and Build Farmers' Union Co-operatives for Buying, Marketing

By Clyde Johnson

The spirit for co-operative buying, marketing and ginning cotton is growing rapidly among union members. High prices for what we buy, low prices and poor markets for what we sell, and exploitation on every hand by those who control the money are forcing the working farmers to unite, unionize, and co-operate to better their conditions.

In Walker County, Alabama, the Farmers' Union is building a cotton gin. They expect to have it ready to gin all the union cotton in the county this year, and that means about all of the cotton in the county. In Franklin, Marion and Walker counties the Farmers' Union locals have their Purchasing Agents and the members pool their money to buy flour and other necessities co-operatively. There is a great deal of talk now about building more co-operative cotton gins and about building co-operative stores and markets.

NOT THE OLD WAY

The old timers in the Farmers' Union have recollections of the first co-operative cotton gin. When we look around we see the ghosts of 20 years ago. We were then with the Farmers' Union name about faded out on the wall. In those days there were no co-operatives.

biggest landlords were leading the union. They didn't see any value in aiding the small farmer in co-operatives because it would be harder to force the small land-owner to the wall and take his land.

Farmers, big and small, joined together to build the co-operatives. But the big landlords controlled them for their own interests. They were not democratic. Small farmers got little benefit and quit in disgust. There was not a real union spirit.

LEARN BY EXPERIENCE

We can profit by their experiences. The Farmers' Union and other Consumers' Co-operative organizations have had a new birth. In the last six years very few co-operative enterprises have failed, while in the same period hundreds of private businesses have failed.

THE ROCHEDALE PLAN

The principles of the Rochdale Plan have stood the test of 95 years of successful co-operative effort. These 25 weavers in Rochdale, England, banded together because they were poor and because they could save money by controlling their own consumer business. They decided that each member could have only one vote. They decided that the co-operative should be democratic and that no one person could

own enough stock to break the co-operative by suddenly withdrawing.

Under the Rochdale Plan the co-operative stores sold at the regular market prices. They did all their business in cash. No one was allowed credit. Every six months or year the books were audited. From the profit on sales they deducted operating expenses, depreciation and a small interest on the stock held by members. The remainder of the profit was divided among the members according to the amount of their purchases during that period.

The books and records of the co-operative are open for inspection by members at all times. Active interest on the part of the members is the greatest safe-guard for the life of the co-operative.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Many co-operatives set aside a part of the profits to provide a free medical service for the members, or a library, a hospital, funeral insurance, or co-operative educational classes.

OUR ENEMIES

The profiteers, the middle-men and others who live off the back of the farmer will fight the co-operative movement. We might as well expect it and educate our members to their enemies. They will tell you co-opera-

tive store products are no good, so they can get to sell their own. They will cut prices and gang up on co-operative stores to try and run them out of business, so they can raise prices to suit themselves afterwards. Every trick the profiteers use against the co-operative is aimed at getting them out of the way so they can charge high prices and continue to suck the life-blood of the farmer. Every union man should pledge to stick with his co-operative through thick and thin. If the co-operative members are not satisfied with the way their business is run, the co-operative is democratic and they can control it.

LET'S GET STARTED

We should look well at Oklahoma and North Dakota where the Farmers' Union co-operatives have proven successful. In every community the Farmers' Union locals should start now to investigate the possibilities of co-operatives. Can the members raise the funds required to start a co-operative store? Can the members in a few counties get together to set up a co-operative curb market? Can the members plan on selling up their own cotton gin and warehouses?

Our members must be educated in

co-operation too. We suggest that the members write to the Central States Co-operative League, 8984 West 37th Street, Chicago, Illinois, and to the National Farmers' Union, 18 North Main St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and ask for literature on co-operatives. Every local union should read and discuss co-operative books and pamphlets in the meetings so all members will understand them.

CO-OPERATE WITH LABOR

When we build co-operatives, one way in insuring their success is by co-operating with organized labor. Co-operative stores should have UNION LABEL goods on the shelves. UNION LABOR should be hired for all work and UNION WAGE SCALES should be paid. Then according to the official agreement with the American Federation of Labor we can have labor in the towns and cities buy only FARMERS' UNION LABEL products at our co-operative markets. This will be a step along the road to Cost of Production prices for our products.

In the next issue of SOUTHERN FARM LEADER we will have articles from Farmers' Union leaders who have helped build and operate Farmers' Union Co-operative Stores, and Cotton Gins.

We are glad to get news and views from any farmer in the South. Address the Southern Farm Leader, Box 980, New Orleans, La.

Our Readers Write

Due to the small size of the paper some letters can not be published and some must be cut down in size. We'll publish all we can.

McIntire Mules

Brother Editor:

I received my loan from the Resettlement. It was for \$490. I paid \$255 for the team of mule and also paid for the tools and seed and feed that I bought. I asked Mr. Pontenot for a copy of the bill but he didn't give me one. He said that I would receive one from the headquarters in Little Rock that would tell me how much to pay each year. But I have not received anything from the headquarters yet. Mr. Pontenot asked me why I didn't call one of my mules McIntire.

Member, Local No. 19
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Editor's Note: I want to thank the St. Landry Parish Supervisor of Resettlement for his compliment. But I might suggest that he spend more time in fighting to get teams for the rest of the needy half-hands instead of fighting the Farmers' Union. Then he can hold a public christening and name all of the mules McIntire. Mr. Pontenot can depend on the backing of the Union so long as he is on the level with those landless and teamless farmers whom it is his job to serve.

Gordon McIntire

One Pony For Plowing

Brother Editor:

Just a few lines to let you know about my condition. I stand a very poor chance for farming. I haven't got but one little pony. There is no help from the merchants at all. I have a wife and five naked children. Is there any way that you can help me to get a loan. If there even was a family that needed help, me and my family do need it now. I am living in a piece of a house and nothing too much to go upon to eat but rent must be paid.

Member, Local No. 8
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Want School Bus First

Brother Editor:

Local No. 21 held its first meeting with 14 members present, 11 visitors, and 4 applications. Our first demand is for a school bus, some of the children have as much as 5 miles to walk. Some have to go down the paved road and are in danger of being run over by automobiles. There have already been two hurt this way.

Secretary, Local No. 21
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Cattle Pen Settlement

Dear Brother:

I am a half hand working for Mr. He makes us work on just half feed. So this year to get something to eat and overalls to wear I had to give a crop lien.

When our boss gives us settlement we are in the cattle pen and he is in the house. That is the kind of settlement we get.

I went to the Boss last year and asked him for land. He told me he hadn't got any. "Go and kill that poor hog you got in your yard. What I got is for me." I have more to say but I can't explain on paper. But my heart is full.

I make the cotton and I pick the cotton but he dares us to go to the gin. When I get unable to pick he brings it to the gin himself. I never know when the cotton is sold until he comes and gives me a little check but no money and no settlement. I never know what the cotton was sold for and know better than to ask questions.

Member, Local No. 4
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Lost Mules, Needs Help

Brother Editor:

I have worked on the thirds for 16 years with my own team. Since the depression I had to mortgage my team for my family's use. One of my mules died. The other they foreclosed on so I have been working on the halves for the last four years.

I have a large family and I cannot live and support my family and give help to the landlord. If there is any way of getting help I would like to know.

Member, Local No. 6
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Short Of Tools & Team

Brother Editor:

I had a pair of mules and one died. I bought another one and it died. So it came that I was unable to buy another one. I have been a farmer with only one mule for the last two years—short of tools and team. I can not get help. I went to the Resettlement office in 1936. I went back and asked for help this year and they turned me down again. I hope to hear from you soon. I am a Farmers' Union man.

Member, Local No. 6
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Pick Moss In Mud, Water

Brother Editor:

I am sending \$1.00 on the bundle of papers you sent me last. Our members buy them but we keep some and give them to new people.

We have had a hard time this spring. All last winter when the water was up all of the poor people have been in hard luck. The WPA jobs gave work to some people that live away from here. They were working all along the levee but they brought nearly all the men on the job from other parts of the country.

People had to scrap moss in the mud and water to live. It is hard to get over 50 lbs a day. They have

UNION LABEL

By Vester Burkett

You are a union man I take it
For you pay your union dues,
But my brethren there is a label
Of a Union in your shoes?

Do you see the Union Label
On the tobacco that you buy?
Or upon your daily paper,
You can get it if you try.

Is there a label in the pocket
Of the suit upon your back?
A label on your collar?
Or a Chinese spider track?

Do you find the Union Label
In the sweat band of your hat?
Look and see if you can find it,
Did you ever think of that?

How about the Union Label
On the broom that your wife
swings,
How about it on your table,
—And a thousand other things.

When you grab the rusty plow,
And the dirt starts to roll
Buddy, are you growing scab stuff?
Or is it Union grown?

There's a moral in this poem,
You can find it if you try.
If at first you fail to see it
Ask yourself the reason why.

Meet Under Charter

Brother Editor:

We held our first meeting last Wednesday night under the new charter. The meeting was a splendid one. Everyone seems encouraged and means to do more and more. Our meeting will be next Wednesday night and every other Wednesday night.

Secretary, Local No. 432
Alabama Farmers' Union

been paying \$2.25 per hundred pounds but now they only give \$1.00.

We were late to start farming because of the backwater. We are all tied up. We can't get but just a little to eat and no clothes.

Member, Local No. 5
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Union Label Program

Brother Editor:

I received your letter last week about the endorsement that the Louisiana State Federation of Labor gave the Farmers' Union. I read it in the meeting last Sunday and it opened the eyes of our members. They say this is the only way we will grow—if the city workers will demand union labels on farm products and farmers will buy union label goods. They all think this is a good plan.

Now, we all have a big crop of Irish potatoes. All the members ask me to write to you if you could have orders to sell our potatoes this year to our union brothers in the city in order to give us farmers a decent wage.

All the farmers have paid high prices for seed potatoes and fertilizer. Now the big speculators will buy them at a very low price. We all had to pay \$4.75 per hundred weight for the potatoes and \$2.00 per hundred weight for the fertilizer. How can we live if we have to pay a big price for seed and now we grow them and the big man wants to take them for a little of nothing?

We should have orders for our products to ship them ourselves only to Union members in the cities. If we do this this year our Union will grow 100%. We must get some improvement this year for our members. It is time to stop begging the people to join the Union. Let us show the unorganized men what Unions can do.

We should ship our potatoes into our sister organized states. We need an agent to investigate markets and conditions in these states that don't grow potatoes. We should ship all of our Farmers' Union produce to these people who demand Union Label products.

Secretary, Local No. 13
Louisiana Farmers' Union

FARM WAGE WORKERS
SUBSCRIBE TO—
THE RURAL WORKER

Box 176, Sta. D, New York City
25c a Year

HOME RULE

Brother Editor:

I want to explain about Home Rule. The big Bosses and their Overseers on the plantation teach their tenants in a way to keep them slaves. The plantations are little penitentiaries for those who take their ideas from the Bosses and Overseers. They tell their hands that you can do as you please because if the sheriff puts you in jail we will get you out. Then a young boy will say "I can do what I want. They can't put me in jail."

Then we hear that some one has got in trouble and they have put him in jail. The next we hear is that the Boss has gotten him out for such an amount and many times it doesn't cost him more than \$10. Then he will call the hand and say, "Now, nigger, I had to pay a lot to get you out so don't go far." And then he finds that he is on a little penitentiary right there on the plantation and if he doesn't watch his business he will be right there for life.

There have been many cases like this. We ought to take this for an example not to listen to those guys any more with their tricks. If we use our heads we will be better men and raise better boys and have brotherly love. Join the Farmers' Union that is going to take the lid off the box and see what is inside. Are a member? If not why not?

Parish Organizer
Louisiana Farmers' Union

\$1.00 A Day For Hoeing

Brother Editor:

We, the Farmers' Union members of Local No. 19 have agreed to pay \$1.00 per day to hoe if we happen to have to hire to hoe. Last year we paid 80 cents a day. This year we are willing to pay \$1.00 on account of everything having gone up. We add 20 cents per day more to allow everybody a chance to live. We don't want any body to go hungry because of this rise in the price of food and clothes.

I say nobody ought to hoe under that price. We are suggesting the same price for the ladies. Children over 15 years of age will also get the same wage because they give the same time as men on hoeing. Many times a boy brings his row ahead of the man.

Secretary, Local No. 19
Louisiana Farmers' Union

Prices High, No Income

Brother Editor:

I received your letter and was glad indeed to hear from you. I was very sorry you could not get here but you are doing a grand work and we will be glad for you to come and see about us just as soon as you can.

The times are still hard with us. The price of everything we buy is high and everything that we sell is low we just can't get anything for it. We only get 15 cents a dozen for eggs and have to buy land at 20 cents a pound. We sell corn at 60 cents a bushel and buy it back for bread at \$1.60. That is the way we have to get along here. I declare that it is hard to live. We can't get any credit at all and we really need food and clothes, and trams and tools to work with.

Also our church has burned down. We are asking help to build the church of God. We have started but the little money ran out. It now seems that what we have got put up is going back down before we are able to finish it. So Brothers please help.

We are having a grand picnic July 9th. It will be at 11 o'clock. We are inviting all the members of the Farmers' Union to come. Brothers and Sisters, as many as you can come and be with us.

President, Local No. 9
Louisiana Farmers' Union

The Sharecrop Contract

By Clyde Johnson

If you go to church every Sunday, that doesn't mean that your friends trust you. You only trust your friends that you know are true. Yet every year the sharecroppers and tenants make arrangements to work the land for big landowners without any signed contract or any guarantee that the land-owner will keep his part of the bargain.

The history of sharecropping is crammed full of examples where landlords have taken advantage of this arrangement. The croppers and tenants suffer these conditions because of the cruel dictatorship under which they live. The control of police power, money, land, credit and government has been held tightly by the landlord. It has been used to suppress the two million white and colored slaves of the cotton plantations.

Every honest and clear-thinking Southerner knows that the South will never be prosperous as long as two million families are starving. This large mass of people cannot buy the products of industry, they cannot satisfy their needs. These factories locate closer to larger markets. The welfare of two million families and the South, depends on raising the standard of living. This means increased income. The average annual income of the sharecropper is about \$300. This must be doubled and tripled before these farm families, that clothe the nation, can begin to produce enough to be a profitable market for industry.

One important step toward raising the

the living standards of these farm families is the establishment of their lawful rights. A Sharecrop Contract has been issued by the editors of Southern Farm Leader as an attempt to have legal, binding agreements between tenant and landlord.

The contract is a simple agreement which says the tenants' advance for the crop season shall be in cash, that the tenant shall have the right to sell his share of the cash crops, that the landlord shall furnish written statements of the tenants account each month, that labor for the landlord on crops other than those named in the contract shall be paid for in cash wages, that there shall be no discrimination for membership in a union. The contract names the duties of tenant and landlord in regard to cultivating and harvesting the crop.

Some landlords who have sucked the life blood of thousands of sharecropper and tenant families by graft, trickery and outright robbery will oppose being bound to a legal contract. We can expect that. However, the fair-minded landlords and those who are oppressed by the unscrupulous bankers and big landowners will see that the contract seeks to establish justice in a fair and legal manner.

The Sharecrop Contract is now being presented to local and county organizations of the Farmers' Union for approval and will be presented to the next meeting of the State Board of the Alabama Farmers' Union.

In order to make this

tions we must have a great deal of support. We are asking public officials, civic, church and trade union leaders to publicly support the Contract. Public opinion will go far to make the landlords agree to fair contracts with tenants.

The real job and the most important way of making the contract a success is to organize all sharecroppers and tenants in each county. Then the union members can study the contract and know every provision in it. Next fall when arrangements are being made the croppers and tenants can stick together and ask the landlords to sign the contract with them. When the landlords find out they can't get anyone to work a crop except a union man, and that all union men are asking for the contract, they will be forced to agree to sign the contract.

This summer we plan to ask the State Commissioner of Agriculture to have a conference of union tenants and landlords to discuss this contract. In addition, the union can work to have state laws passed providing for written landlord-tenant contracts.

The success of the campaign for the Sharecrop Contract depends most upon the support and work of the union. Build the Farmers' Union. Make every county a Farmers' Union county. Then the Contract can serve its purpose. The Contract can establish justice and right in landlord-tenant relations and abolish much of the cheating, robbery and robbery that goes on today.

AN INDEPENDENT FARM PAPER

EDITORS

GORDON McINTIRE
Box 210, New Orleans, La.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Address: P. O. Box 559, New Orleans, La.

— Subscription Rates —

For Farmers: 25c for One Year—15c for 6 months
Supporting Subscriptions: One Dollar a Year

Make Money Orders payable to Southern Farm Leader

Land For The Landless

At last we have a bill in Congress that aims at providing land, teams and tools for sharecroppers and tenants. Congressman Bollau of Wisconsin introduced it for the Farm Holiday Association. We should know by now that Congress will not pass it unless the farmers of the nation make a very powerful demand for it. Every farmer, every union local, every trade union and all civic and church organizations should send letters and resolutions to their congressmen demanding that they support, speak and vote for the Bollau Bill. Order copies of the bill from Southern Farm Leader. Discuss it in your local, with your friends, spread the news everywhere and arouse the people to support the Bollau Bill. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT! We won't miss this great chance if we go down the line for the Bollau Bill. Make our slogan ring through the hills and plantations—LAND FOR THE LANDLESS.

Give Me Liberty

The LaFollette Senate Committee investigating civil liberties is still uncovering and exposing planned murder and brutal attacks upon union men and women by mine and mill owners. Patrick Henry, that great Virginian who shouted "Give me liberty or give me death" in defiance of British oppression, thought he and his fellow revolutionists were founding a free and democratic America. He would turn over in his grave if he knew the terrible abuses the people suffer under their own oppressors. Write to the Government Printing Office in Washington, D. C. or your Congressman for copies of the LaFollette Committee Report on Violations of Free Speech and Rights of Labor. Knowledge of the true facts will stir our people to build strong unions that can revive, strengthen and protect democracy in America.

For Labor Unity

When labor is making its greatest progress, when the giant steel, auto, textile and other industries are being successfully unionized for the first time, it is a shame that the American Federation of Labor is becoming a house divided against itself. Labor's progress may be blocked, even forced backward unless there is unity in the union movement. The danger of fascist dictatorship by bankers, industrialists and big landlords like workers and farmers suffer under in Germany and Italy is present in America and only a strong, united movement can stop it. The danger of another bloody World War stares us in the face and only the union movement can stop it. The best interests of labor in general must be first in the mind of those who lead the warring groups in the A.F.L. Personal grudges and jealousies must be left out. Farmers will benefit from a strong union movement by higher prices and larger markets for their products. We ask all labor and farmers to stand for unity of the A. F. of L. and bringing back all CIO unions and the principle of industrial unionism into the American Federation of Labor.

Nazi officials have issued a pamphlet urging invalids to throw away their wheel chairs and get ready for the next war. They are to practice shooting with pistols "always at an outline of the human form," to exercise with dumbbells, to march, first two miles and then ten, and to dive from a ten-foot platform.

No money can be spared for flood control, said Roosevelt. Almost immediately, a new flood came on, with damage estimated at over a billion dollars.

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P. O. Box 500, New Orleans, La.
If you are a farm worker, sharecropper, tenant or
small farm owner

This is YOUR PAPER!

1994

1998

JAMES BRADDOCK

MEMBERSHIP LISTING OF THE GROUP
WAS FOR MANY YEARS A LONG-TERM
HE POSSESSED AN IDENTITY MEMBER-
SHIP CARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LONGHORN MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF
WHICH HE IS A MEMBER.

DURING ONLY THE FIRST HALF OF 1936 SOME 230 LARGE CORPORATIONS REPORTED 87% INCREASE IN PROFITS WHILE THE WORK WEEK HAS BEEN LENGTHENED TEN HOURS AND WAGES INCREASED ONLY 5.5%.

THE U.S. COTTON
REGION IS THE GRE-
EST REMAINING SING-
SPHERE OF WOMAN
AND CHILD LABOR IN
THE WORLD.

IN THE LAST TEN YEARS NOT
A SINGLE COOPERATIVE
HAS FORMED, WHILE IN THE
SAME PERIOD OF TIME
10,000 BUSINESS FIRMS
FORMED WITH LOANS OF
OVER \$2,000,000,000

TWO-TIMING TENANTS

By Farm Research

The Roosevelt farm tenancy program which has been creaking along on one cylinder has now come to a dead stop. After the President's budget message, Secretary Wallace mournfully announced that in all probability tenancy legislation was doomed. He added that since the "evils of tenancy" had persisted so long, "a few years delay would probably not make much difference."

Throughout the winter the half-hearted actions of Congressmen and Administration officials, supposedly in favor of the Jones Tendency Bill, indicated that it would be killed at the first opportunity. The Bill, finally reported out of the House Committee on Agriculture after 11 weeks of bitter wrangling, was even more ineffectual than the original upon which long hearings were held. Wallace now admits that even this original Bill, H. R. 8, was entirely inadequate, although at the time of the hearings he refused to ask for more than the \$50,000,000 a year provided.

Farm Bureau Leaders Oppose Aid

The present Jones Bill, H. R. 6240, is a victory for the Farm Bureau, which has objected to any plan "making it easier for tenants than for able farmers to own land." In contrast to H. R. 8, which had no property qualifications, H. R. 6240 gives preference in making loans to "persons who are able to make an initial down payment, or who are owners of livestock and farm implements necessary successfully to carry on farming operations."

In the form reported out of Committee, the Bill calls for an appropriation of \$470,000,000. This money is to be divided as follows: \$150,000,000 for Rural Rehabilitation loans to be spent in the next two years; \$70,000,000 for a sub-marginal land purchase program, to be spent in the next four years. Both these features of the Bill continue activities now carried on by the Resettlement Administration. \$250,000,000, spread over five years, is to be loaned to selected farm families at 2% interest, the loans to be repaid in 20 years.

This last provision was inserted into the bill by big landowners as a stimulus for the government purchase program. County Commissioners of these farmers, lobbied by the National Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations, select "leader" tenants and ask to join on the farms in which the prospective owner get a percentage deal. The amendment reveals there already was over before that the main purpose of the program was to enable the large, established and wealthy landlords to take over the small tenant holdings and to keep the small tenant holdings from being sold.

ANGELO HERNDON AND US

In its five-to-four decision freeing Angelo Herndon from the heavy penalties of a Georgia jury the Supreme Court rebuked the lawlessness of a state statute that seeks to punish men for their radical opinions. It asserted again that the right to speak and think freely is available to the humblest American.

Georgia tried to send this radical Negro to jail for 18 to 20 years under an 1866 statute punishing insurrection. His crime was membership in and agitation for the Communist Party. Justice Robert's majority opinion held that mere membership in the Communist Party is not insurrection. The ancient statute, Justice Roberts said, was merely "a dragnet which may enmesh anyone who agitates for a change of government if a jury can be persuaded that he ought to have foreseen his words would have some effect on the future conduct of others."

This opinion, calling us back to a fundamental—the right of every citizen to speak freely, even if wrongly—represents not only Georgia, but those other states that have tried to stifle minority utterance by “criminal syndicalism” laws and other statutes of doubtful constitutionality.

And this opinion affects us all. With Angelo Herndon headed for jail because he voiced unpopular doctrine, each American could say, as John Wesley said of an unfortunate human, "There but for the grace of God go I!"

—Editorial, Birmingham Post, 4-27-37

PROFITS CLIMB SHARPLY

By Farm Research

Profits of corporations continue their dizzy climb upward. Among the companies in latest annual reports showing the largest increases are Borden Creamery, Carnation Co., and International Harvester. These companies are either food processors or concerns which make a major part of their sales to farmers. A list of the biggest corporations would show an even greater increase in net profits in 1936.

	1935	1934	Per Cent
Eastern Creamery	\$ 1,150,750	\$ 985,600	85.6
Carnation Co.	1,504,600	1,500,311	99.7
Valley Mill Co.	261,500	371,700	70.3
National Harvester	25,400,700	24,815,500	97.6
Libby, McNeill & Libby	4,500,000	3,119,000	69.3
Smith, Nat. Packing Co.	2,700,000	1,570,000	58.1
General Foods Corp.	1,500,000	1,170,000	78.0
Heinz	1,200,000	1,000,000	83.3
Unilever	1,000,000	1,000,000	100.0
Others	1,000,000	1,000,000	100.0
Total	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 27,000,000	90.0

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